

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Washington, D.C.

August XX, 2016

**EPA – UNEP MOU Signing with Administrator McCarthy and
UNEP Executive Director Erik Solheim**

DATE: September 16, 2016
LOCATION: Alvin L. Alm Conference Room
MEETING TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
FROM: Hodayah Finman, Senior Adviser, OITA/OGAP

I. PURPOSE

This meeting will serve as an introduction between YOU and the new United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director, Erik Solheim, who replaced former Executive Director Achim Steiner on May 13th, 2016. YOU will discuss the top priorities for each agency and areas of past and future collaboration. At the end of the meeting, YOU and Executive Director Solheim will sign a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the EPA and UNEP, updating the first MOU between the two agencies signed in 2011.

II. TALKING POINTS

- As EPA is the US authority on environmental issues and UNEP the lead UN Environmental body it is crucial that our two organizations have a direct working relationship. Past EPA-UNEP work demonstrates the potential for success when our organizations collaborate. We are excited to reaffirm this relationship with the signing of a renewed MOU.
- Before moving into the meeting, we would like to thank UNEP for their essential support on resource efficiency during the G7 Environment Ministers Meeting. We welcome the UNEP-International Resource Panel report on resource efficiency and anticipate that this analysis will move discussions forward in 2017, particularly in relation to the 10 Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).
- [Placeholder for OAR revision] A top US priority is implementing the Paris Agreement. A key first step is passing a HFC Amendment to the Montreal Protocol in Kigali this October.
- Recent studies have revealed several crucial environmental issues with global impacts. The WHO found that air pollution exposure causes one in eight deaths and is the single largest environmental health issues globally. UNEP is in a unique position to convene policymakers and build capacity around regulations, models and programs, leveraging existing resources to place more focus on improving urban air quality.
- The FAO estimates that one-third of all food produced worldwide is lost or wasted, emitting eight percent of global greenhouse gases annually. EPA has had a successful partnership with the UNEP Regional Office for North America on the Think.Eat.Save campaign and were pleased

with the passage of UNEA Resolution 2/9 on the prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste. However, EPA has found that many developing nations do not recognize growing food waste problems linked to urbanization, truism and the expanding middle class. EPA hopes to collaborate with UNEP through the Champions 12.3 initiative to encourage engagement on food waste prevention worldwide.

- EPA serves as the US Focal Point for the 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), for which UNEP is the secretariat. We've contributed to the development and implementation of the Sustainable Public Procurement Programme, the Consumer Information Programme in its work on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), and, most recently, the Sustainable Food Systems Programme in areas that relate to food waste
- EPA participates in UNEP's Global Partnership on Marine Litter by sharing success and best practices from EPA's domestic Trash Free Waters program. EPA has recently partnered with the UNEP Caribbean Environment Program to expand Trash-Free Waters to the wider Caribbean Region, with two pilots in Jamaica and Panama.
- [Placeholder for OAR] EPA is implementing projects under the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, which the UNEP serves as secretariat.
- [Placeholder for ORD]
- [Placeholder for OCSPP]
- [Placeholder for OW]
- [Placeholder for OLEM]
- [Placeholder for GC]

III. PARTICIPANTS

EPA Attendees

- YOU*
- Administrator's staff (?)*
- Jane Nishida*, OITA Acting Assistant Administrator
- Martin Dieu*, OITA Chief of Staff
- Walker Smith/ Marianne Bailey*, OITA Office of Global Affairs and Policy Director/ Deputy Director
- Hodayah Finman*, OITA OGAP International Organizations Program Senior Advisor
- OAR – AA* + 1

- OCSPP – AA* + 1
- ORD - AA* + 1
- OW - AA* + 1
- GC –AA, CarolAnn Siciliano* and Lisa Goldman*
- OLEM – AA* + 1
- Ted MacDonald, OITA/ OGAP
- Alexis Rourk, OITA/ OGAP
- Brianna Besch, OITA/ OGAP

UNEP Attendees

- Erik Solheim, Executive Director
- Patricia (Patty) Beneke, Regional Director and Representative for North America
- TBD

IV. BACKGROUND

EPA has a longstanding and successful relationship with UNEP including numerous substantive partnerships. The 2011 MOU was signed between then-Administrator Jackson and –UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner at the UNEP Governing Council Meeting/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in Nairobi, Kenya. The 2016 MOU updates areas of cooperation in, but not limited to, the following: strengthening environmental laws, national institutional capacity, and national governance; creating healthy communities; transitioning to a green economy; responding to climate change and global challenges; and providing scientific leadership.

EPA works with UNEP on a broad range of issues, including:

Chemicals and Waste:

- One of EPA's biggest efforts is through the UNEP Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Based Paint which is working to put in place effective regulations to eliminate lead in paint globally. Lead is neurotoxin that robs children of their potential to learn costs economies trillions of dollars in lost GDP. We are working with UNEP in Geneva and with the UNEP Regional Office for Africa to plan a workshop to promote harmonization of lead paint laws in the East African Community.
- EPA plays a leadership role in the UNEP's Global Mercury Partnership and their goal "to protect human health and the environment from the release of mercury and its compound by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land." EPA serves as the co-chair for Partnership Advisory Group, which supports the Global Mercury Partnership and as lead of the Products and Chlor-Alkali Partnership Areas. EPA has done work to phase out mercury thermometers blood pressure devises as well as to reduce mercury use in small scale artisanal gold mining.

Climate and Air Quality

- The EPA was a founding partner in the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles which succeeded in a phasing out leaded gasoline in most of the world. Now the PCFV is focused on developing harmonized fuels and vehicles standards, with a focus on a systems approach to maximize the air quality benefits of low sulfur fuels. In partnership with UNEP, EPA provides technical and policy advice and participates in stakeholder outreach, particularly particular in the East Africa Community.
- Urban Air Quality: EPA is collaborating with the World Bank, UNEP, WHO, the Stockholm Environment Institute and others to leverage work across these partner organizations to establish a holistic approach in addressing air quality health impacts.

- [Placeholder for OITA] The EPA works closely with the Global Adaptation Network (GAN)
- [Placeholder for OITA] Work on UNEP Resolution 1/9 on Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme (GEMS/Water)

Marine and Water

- EPA plays a significant role in UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and is the US' Technical Focal Point for the Land Based Sources Protocol under the Cartagena Convention. EPA works with the programme to address accelerating degradation of the world's ocean and coastal areas, through the sustainable management of use of marine and coastal environments.
- EPA participates in UNEP's Global Partnership on Marine Litter by sharing success and best practices from EPA's domestic Trash Free Waters program. EPA has recently partnered with the UNEP Caribbean Environment Program to expand Trash-Free Waters to include the wider Caribbean Region, with two pilot countries, Jamaica and Panama.

The 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP)

The 10YFP was adopted as part of the outcome document from Rio +20. It was welcomed by the U.S. as an opportunity to promote efforts among both public and private sector stakeholders, and to serve as a framework to support a range of stakeholder-driven and stakeholder-led initiatives without the charged atmosphere that often accompanies multilateral engagements.

- EPA serves as the US National Focal Point to for the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, for which the UNEP is the Secretariat. EPA has been engaged in several 10YFP activities including projects on sustainable public procurement and lifecycle assessments.
- EPA drafted a resolution adopted at the 2016 UNEA-2 on the 'prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste' and Administrator McCarthy serves a 12.3 Champion, referring to Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 target to 'halve per capital global food waste and reduce food loss.'

Environmental Indicators and Data

- EPA works with UNEP to design and implement UNEP Live, a web-based environmental assessment platform, to provide access to national, regional and global assessments and data to improve environmental decision-making.

V. ATTACHMENTS

1. EPA UNEP 2016 MOU
2. UNEP Executive Director Erik Solheim Bio
3. Run of Show
4. Accomplishments Document

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Attachment 2: Executive Director Erik Solheim Bio

<http://www.unep.org/About/executivedirector/solheim/Biography.aspx>



Following an extensive career focusing on environment and development in government and international organizations, Erik Solheim was elected to become Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on May 13, 2016.

Prior to joining UNEP, Solheim was the chair of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). As head of the DAC, which is the main body of the world's development donors, Solheim emphasized the role of private sector and tax in development finance, spearheading the Sustainable Development Investment Partnership and the Addis Tax Initiative. Solheim also focused on the need to channel more aid to least-developed countries, and bring new members and partners to the DAC.

From 2007 to 2012, Solheim held the combined portfolio of Norway's Minister of the Environment and International Development, and from 2005 to 2007 served as Minister of International Development. This unique portfolio mixture allowed him to bring a coherent approach to development and the environment.

During his time as Minister, Norwegian aid reached 1%, the highest in the world. Solheim also put into place the Nature Diversity Act, which many consider to be Norway's most important piece of environmental legislation in the last 100 years. The Norwegian Climate and Forest Initiative, in which Norway cooperates closely with Brazil, Indonesia, Guyana and other countries to conserve rainforests, was also established under Solheim. This initiative provided critical input to the establishment of UN REDD, the global coalition to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

Solheim is also an experienced peace negotiator, having acted as the main facilitator of the peace process in Sri Lanka from 1998 to 2005. The peace process led to a ceasefire and the Oslo Declaration in 2002, where parties welcomed a federal state in Sri Lanka. He continued to lead peace efforts in Sri Lanka as Minister, and has contributed to peace processes in Sudan, Nepal, Myanmar and Burundi.

In addition to his career as a Minister and at the OECD, Solheim has served as UNEP's Special Envoy for Environment, Conflict and Disaster since 2013 and a Patron of Nature for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 2012. He has also received a number of awards for his work on climate and the environment, including UNEP's Champion of the Earth award, TIME Magazine's Hero of the Environment, and an honorary doctorate from TERI University in Delhi, India. He has also written three books: *Den store samtalen*, *Naermere*, and *Politikk er a ville*.

Solheim holds a degree in history and social studies from the University of Oslo. He is married with four children.

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